

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

[001] U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/035,747, filed on even date herewith in the name of Guy L. Steele Jr. and entitled “Floating Point System That Represents Status Flag Information Within A Floating Point Operand,” assigned to the assignee of the present application, is hereby incorporated by reference.

[061] As noted above, Fig. 4 depicts a functional block diagram of an exemplary functional unit 50 for performing a floating point computation using one operand. The structure and operation of functional unit 50 are similar to the structure and operation of functional unit 40, except that, no OR gate 43 is provided to generate a signal since the functional unit 50 has only one operand. Instead, a signal representative of the least significant fraction field bit, f_{lsb} , of the operand is provided to the rounding unit 52(e) to indicate whether the operand is exact. Multiplexer 54 operates similarly to multiplexer 44.

[062] The functional unit cores 41 and 51 and rounding units 42a-42d and ~~52(a)-52(d)~~ 52a-52d may comprise any conventional circuitry as will be appreciated by those of ordinary skill in the art, or circuitry described in the aforementioned Steele patent application. Functional units 40, 50 may be realized entirely in software, entirely in hardware, or in any combination of software and hardware.